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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS

Team wins
first-ever
NBA title
p5



READING

Exciting
graphic
novel!
p23



HOW TO

Whip up
our tasty
treats
p24



July 4/July 11, 2025
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOS
KIDS

LAKE OR OCEAN?

Which body of water is best?
Vote in our big debate! p8

Some love a
lake's calm waters.
But others say the
ocean's waves and
adventures can't be
beat. What do
YOU think?

SUMMER
BONUS!
EXTRA PAGES
INSIDE





This week's big news



DID YOU KNOW?
The Middle East includes 18 countries that are located in parts of Africa, Asia, and Europe.

If you feel worried



It's understandable that you might feel upset about what's happening in the Middle East. If you do, talk with a trusted adult, share your feelings, and ask questions about anything you're concerned about. Limit your exposure to news intended for adults, and continue to do things you enjoy.

US enters conflict in the Middle East

The US entered a war between Israel and Iran on June 21. The two Middle Eastern countries have been fighting since June 13, when Israel, a US ally, launched a series of attacks on Iran to try to stop it from building nuclear weapons. On June 24, Israel and Iran said they had agreed to a ceasefire (pause in fighting).

What happened?

On the evening of June 21, the US dropped at least six large bombs on Fordo, a heavily guarded site built deep inside a mountain in Iran where it is believed that nuclear weapons are being made. These are very powerful weapons that would pose a threat to Israel and other nations. US submarines also fired at least 30 missiles at two other sites related to Iran's nuclear program, one of which had already been damaged by Israel. President Donald Trump, who ordered the US assault, later held a press conference urging Iran to accept a peace agreement or face further attacks.

Why did this happen?

There is a long history of conflict between Israel and Iran, as well as years of efforts by the US to stop Iran from making nuclear weapons. In 2015, Iran signed an agreement with the US and other countries saying it would not build nuclear

weapons. The Trump administration pulled the US out of the treaty in 2018, during his first term. In 2023, officials with the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations) determined that Iran had taken steps to resume its nuclear program. A week after launching its recent attack on Iran, Israel asked the US for additional help. Trump said the objective of the US strike was the "destruction" of locations where Iran was developing nuclear weapons.

What was the result?

Trump said the strikes destroyed all three Iranian nuclear sites. But top US government officials said it was too early to know whether the attacks would prevent Iran from making nuclear weapons. In particular, it is unclear whether the US destroyed Iran's supply of uranium, a natural metal that is necessary for making the weapons. The location of Iran's uranium is unknown. There have been no reports of injuries to anyone due to the US attacks. About 600 people have died in Iran and 28 people in Israel since June 13.

How did people react?

Iranian officials strongly criticized the attacks by the US, which hasn't used force against Iran since 1979. On June 23, Iran tried to attack a US

military base in Qatar, a nearby Middle Eastern country. The missiles were intercepted by Qatar's military, and no injuries to American troops were reported. US allies—including Australia, France, Mexico, Spain, and the UK—agreed that Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons but expressed concern over the US attacks and called for all three countries to negotiate an end to the fighting. António Guterres, secretary general of the UN, said he was "gravely alarmed" by the US strikes. Many US lawmakers were angry that Trump did not seek approval from Congress (branch of government that makes laws) before launching the attacks. The Constitution (highest US law) states that Congress has the authority to declare war, although the President can authorize the use of military force in certain circumstances.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on June 24, the situation continued to change quickly. Hours after announcing the ceasefire deal, which was negotiated with the help of the US and Qatar, Trump said Israel and Iran had both violated it and called on them to honor it. The countries agreed to do so, but political experts said the ceasefire was fragile. The terms of the agreement were not made public, and it was not clear whether there would be further discussions about a more permanent end to the fighting in the coming days.



A map of the region



Artifacts sent back to Nigeria

On June 19, the Netherlands returned 119 artworks to Nigeria that were stolen by the British army in 1897. They included sculptures, plaques, and a bell and were returned as part of Nigeria's international effort to recover African objects. It's the largest number of artifacts to have been transferred back to the country at one time.

At least 3,000 pieces of art were taken when Britain seized control of the ancient Kingdom of Benin, now southern Nigeria. The artifacts are made of materials like ivory, wood, and brass but are collectively known as the Benin Bronzes. Over time, they were distributed around the world. Nigeria has been asking for their return since the 1970s, but not all pieces have been given back.

A formal ceremony was held on June 21 at the National Museum in Lagos, Nigeria, where some of the objects will stay. Others will be returned to the Kingdom of Benin. "These are not just artifacts," said Olugbile Holloway, a Nigerian official. "They are embodiments of the spirit, pride, and dignity of the Benin people."



Some of the artifacts

The recently re-created face of a Denisovan



FAMILY TREE

Denisovans, along with Neanderthals, are one of the closest relatives of modern humans.

Face of an early human revealed

For the first time, scientists have reconstructed the face of a prehistoric human known as a Denisovan. One of several extinct human species that once lived alongside early Homo sapiens (modern humans), Denisovans existed about 370,000 to 30,000 years ago in Europe and Asia.

Denisovans were first identified in 2010 by a scientist named Qiaomei Fu, who analyzed DNA (complex chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing should develop) from a pinkie fossil found in a cave in Siberia called Denisova. Since then, teeth and bone fragments from the species have been found, but those weren't enough to indicate what Denisovans actually looked like. For that, scientists needed a skull.

Fu recently examined a skull that was found in Harbin, China, in 1933 by a worker who kept it

hidden for decades. Researchers had previously said it belonged to an undiscovered human species, but Fu suspected it was a Denisovan. She and her team extracted DNA from plaque on the skull's teeth and proteins from other parts of it. They confirmed that it was a Denisovan, making it the most complete fossil of the species ever found.

Using the skull as a guide, the team determined that the Denisovan had flat cheeks, deep-set eyes, and no chin. It also had a large skull and a bigger brain than modern humans have. More Denisovan fossils are needed to confirm that these facial features were common among the species. But knowing what a Denisovan skull looks like will help scientists identify more of their fossils in the future. "We have cleared up some of the mystery surrounding this population," Fu said.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...



SAMPLING CHEESE

It was a delicious day in the town of Sopó, Colombia, when 1,185 people gathered to set a world record for the largest cheese-tasting event. One onlooker called it "a passionate gathering of cheese enthusiasts."



Cheese tasters



Bruce at work

A BELOVED BAT DOG

A golden retriever named Bruce has made it to the big leagues. Bruce, who usually fetches bats for a lower-league baseball team, recently did his job for the Washington Nationals before their Major League Baseball game. "Look at this dog and try not to smile," said his owner.

A LASTING LEGACY

Sofia Nielsen wanted to honor her classmates in her high school graduation speech. So the artist, who lives in New York, spent months painting a portrait of each of the 110 students. She placed the gift under their seats and asked them to open it during the ceremony. It was "a way to immortalize our legacy," Nielsen said.



Sofia Nielsen (center)



National news

HOW MANY JUSTICES?

The number of justices on the US Supreme Court has changed throughout history but has been set at nine since 1869.



The Supreme Court building in Washington, DC

The 17th chief justice



In 2005, John Roberts (above) became chief justice (top leader) of the Supreme Court, after being nominated by President George W. Bush (2001–2009), a Republican. Roberts is the nation's 17th chief justice, which is why today's court is called the 17th court. The court will be known that way for as long as Roberts serves.

Court decides case on gender-affirming care

The Supreme Court (SCOTUS, the nation's highest court of law) has ruled that states can ban some medical care for transgender youths. A person is transgender when their gender identity is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. The decision in the case of the US v. Skrmetti was divided, 6–3. The six conservative justices appointed by Republican Presidents were in the majority, and the three liberal justices appointed by Democratic Presidents dissented (disagreed).

What was the case?

In 2023, three families filed a lawsuit (legal dispute) against the state of Tennessee after it passed a law prohibiting doctors from providing gender-affirming care. This included medication to treat transgender youths who experience gender dysphoria (distress a person feels due

to inconsistency between their gender identity and their sex assigned at birth). The families argued that the law violated their children's rights under the Constitution (highest US law) because the medications they were denied could still be prescribed to other young people for conditions unrelated to gender dysphoria.

What did the justices say?

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, said the law didn't violate the Constitution. He said that amid "fierce" debate about the safety of certain treatments for young people, the law should be up to Tennessee's voters and elected officials. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who wrote the dissent, said the law discriminates against transgender youths and that untreated gender dysphoria can lead to serious health concerns.

How did people react?

Tennessee's leading Republican elected officials praised the SCOTUS decision. Chase Strangio, the lawyer representing the families in the case, said the ruling is "a devastating loss for transgender people, our families, and everyone who cares about the Constitution." The American Academy of Pediatrics said it remained "unwavering" in its support of providing gender-affirming care for young people.

What will happen next?

In addition to Tennessee, more than 20 other states have taken steps to ban gender-affirming care for transgender youths. Because SCOTUS rulings settle law for the entire country, the laws in other states can remain in effect unless elected officials vote to change them.

WORD OF THE WEEK

AWE

The word "awe" describes a sense of great wonder. In Old English, it meant "terror or dread" and was used to describe things that inspired fear in those who witnessed them. "Awe" is the root of the words "awful," as well as "awesome," first used to describe something that inspired wonder. Today we use "awesome" to mean simply "great" or "excellent."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 1, 1963

Postal service introduces zip codes

On July 1, 1963, zip codes were put into effect by the US Postal Service in an effort to deliver mail more efficiently. Zip stands for "zone improvement plan." The numbers in a zip code indicate the region and area where an address is located. The new system was not popular at first because people were not sure they could memorize the numbers. Today there are nearly 42,000 zip codes in the US.

ZIP CODE System

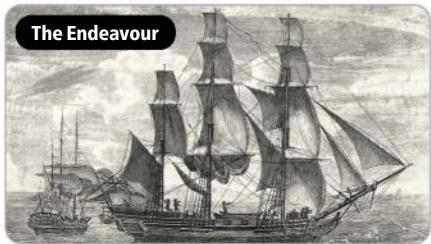


National news



Artificial dyes to be removed

Two major US food companies, Kraft Heinz and General Mills, announced plans to remove all artificial dyes from their products by the end of 2027. The dyes in Kraft Heinz products, such as Jell-O and Kool-Aid, and in General Mills foods, such as its cereals, will be replaced with natural alternatives. Both companies said the change affects a small number of their offerings because 85% to 90% of their foods are already made without artificial coloring.



Famous shipwreck is identified

Researchers confirmed that a shipwreck located off the coast of Rhode Island is the Endeavor, a famous lost ship. British explorer James Cook was its captain in the 1770s, becoming the first European to reach the eastern coast of Australia and other places. England later used the ship and sold it. Officials said the site of the wreck will be protected to preserve the ship's historical significance.



Condors born at California zoo

The Los Angeles Zoo has announced the birth of 10 California condor chicks during this year's breeding season. The California condor, North America's largest bird, was listed as endangered in 1967. Today there are an estimated 560 condors, including about 210 living in captivity. The zoo will care for the chicks until they can be evaluated for release into the wild.



NAME CHANGE
In 2008, the Seattle SuperSonics became the Oklahoma City Thunder, after moving from Washington to Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City wins first NBA title

The Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Indiana Pacers, 103–91, on June 22 in Oklahoma City to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals. This is the franchise's first NBA Championship as the Oklahoma City Thunder and caps off an impressive season.

The Thunder won a league-best 68 games during regular play. They are one of seven teams in NBA history to win that many games or more in a season. Going into the playoffs, the Thunder were seeded (ranked) number one overall. They defeated the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round and the Denver Nuggets in the next round. After that, they knocked out the Minnesota Timberwolves in the Western Conference Finals.

The Pacers, meanwhile, made a surprise run to the NBA Finals, entering the playoffs as the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference. After defeating the Milwaukee Bucks in the first round, they upset the Cleveland Cavaliers, the top seed in the East, in the second round. The



Pacers then went on to defeat the New York Knicks in the Eastern Conference Finals.

In the NBA Finals, the best-of-seven series went to Game 7 for the 20th time in league history and the first time since 2016. The Pacers shocked the Thunder at first, winning Game 1 of the series in Oklahoma City, 111–110. The two teams alternated wins until Game 5, which the Thunder won, 120–109, to take a 3–2 series lead. The Pacers won Game 6 to force Game 7.

The Pacers suffered a blow in the first quarter of Game 7 when star player Tyrese Haliburton left the contest due to a leg injury. The team kept the game close, however, and had a 48–47 lead going into halftime. But the Thunder pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring the Pacers and going on to clinch the title.

The NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) went to the Thunder's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who was also the league's MVP. "It doesn't feel real," he said afterward. "But this group worked for it. This group put in the hours, and we deserve this."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Escaped tortoise found wandering South Carolina neighborhood" UPI





Around the world



The meeting room

The Hague, Netherlands NATO summit held

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, a military alliance of 32 nations) held a summit on June 24–25. One topic discussed was funding for defense. Each NATO member is currently expected to spend 2% of their GDP (total value of goods and services produced in a country), and an increase to 5% by 2035 is being proposed. Some of the additional funds would go toward improving ports and airfields and preparing for future conflicts.



Navy members conduct repairs.

Oaxaca, Mexico Cleanup begins after hurricane

People in southern Mexico began cleanup efforts on June 19 after Hurricane Erick hit the area with wind speeds of up to 125 miles per hour. The storm caused damage to buildings, including two hospitals, and flooded the streets of Puerto Escondido, which lost electricity and phone service. By June 20, power had been restored to about half of the residents. Shelters were set up for people in need, and troops helped with cleanup.



Digging up the mummy

Lima, Peru Utility workers find ancient skeleton

Workers discovered a 1,000-year-old mummy that still has dark brown hair. The crew was digging trenches to build gas pipelines when they found the preserved body underground. Experts say it could be evidence of a burial site that existed before the Spanish arrived in Lima in 1535. They believe the mummy belonged to a society of fishermen that lived there from 1000–1470.

Berlin, Germany Swimmers take a stand

About 200 people jumped into the Spree River on June 17 in an attempt to persuade authorities to open it for swimming. Berlin banned swimming in the Spree 100 years ago because it had become so polluted it could cause illness. The river has since been cleaned up, and its water quality is constantly monitored, so one group says it is now safe.



The swim



Essaouira, Morocco Honoring music

The city of Essaouira hosted the Gnaoua and World Music Festival from June 19–21, featuring 350 artists from more than a dozen countries. The festival highlights Gnaoua music, a style that originated centuries ago among formerly enslaved Black Africans in Morocco. More than 300,000 people attended the event, which included concerts, presentations, and a parade of Maâlems (masters of Gnaoua music).



Gnaoua performers

Around the world



A landmine warning sign

Helsinki, Finland Vote on landmines

The Finnish government voted to withdraw from an agreement that bans the use of anti-personnel landmines. These underground explosive devices are banned by 160 countries because they often harm civilians. Finland wants to use them because it feels threatened by its neighbor, Russia. Other countries near Russia also plan to exit the treaty.



Ansan, South Korea Circus celebrates 100 years

South Korea's oldest and only remaining circus has marked 100 years of performances. Dongchoon features acrobats, unicyclers, and jugglers. It once involved elephants and giraffes but stopped using them because of concerns about animal welfare. The circus traveled around the country before moving into a tent in Ansan in 2011. Performance director Xing Jiangtao said he hopes it will continue delighting audiences "for another 100 years."



Migrant Child

Venice, Italy Effort to protect public artwork

Steps have been taken to protect a painting titled *Migrant Child*, created by Banksy, a famous British artist whose identity is unknown. It is painted on a wall, like most of Banksy's work, and draws attention to the difficulties faced by migrants (people who leave their home country to move to another). A temporary framework of poles and platforms has been set up around the wall so workers can restore the painting.



Aung San Suu Kyi

Myanmar Birthday wishes for imprisoned leader

On June 19, thousands of people recorded video greetings for the 80th birthday of Myanmar's former leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. While Suu Kyi was leading the country in 2021, the military seized power, arrested her, and sent her to prison, where she remains today. Many people think this is unjust. By the end of the day, more than 103,000 videos had been recorded, surpassing a world record.



Ash rose into the sky.

Flores Island, Indonesia Massive volcanic eruption

A volcano called Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted on June 17, sending thick clouds of ash seven miles into the sky. People were evacuated from nearby villages as ash and dust covered buildings and roads. Dozens of flights were canceled in the area, which is located in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a region containing about 75% of Earth's active volcanoes.



The big debate

Is the lake better than the ocean?

Some people like the calm of a lake, while others seek adventures by the ocean.

What you need to know

- The US has more than 100,000 miles of shoreline, including oceans and the Great Lakes, a chain of connected lakes on the border of the US and Canada.
- There are 6,000 coastal and Great Lakes beaches in the country.
- More than 40% of the country's population and many wildlife species live near the coast.
- In a 2024 survey, 62% of people said the beach was their top vacation destination.

Summer is here, which means it's time to head to the water to cool off, take a dip, splash around, and have some fun. For many people, that involves spreading out a towel on the shore of a lake, where the water quietly laps at the sand. They can do a cannonball off a dock and float on their backs while admiring the forest or mountain views. For others, however, summer means a trip to a beach by the ocean, where they can play in the sand or jump in the waves. Afterward, they can gaze off into the distance, where the water meets the horizon. What do you think? Is the lake better than the ocean?

YES Three reasons the lake is better than the ocean

- 1 It's more fun to kayak, canoe, or do other activities in calm lake waters.
- 2 The views from a lake can be so beautiful—you can often see mountains, valleys, forests, and more.
- 3 It's easier to find and visit a lake because there are so many in the US, but most people have to travel to a beach.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think the lake is better than the ocean or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Lakes include Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, which touch eight US states.

Yes—lakes are more versatile

Lakes are calmer than oceans, with no tides and very small waves, if any at all. That makes it much easier and safer to do water activities, like kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, and swimming. And if you want to take a break from the water, you can towel off and go for a hike because lakes are usually surrounded by beautiful mountains or forests. Even the ones in cities often have walking paths nearby. Plus, lakes are much more accessible than ocean beaches. There are more than 58,000 natural lakes scattered around the US, but people have to live near the coast—or travel to it—to enjoy the ocean.

No—oceans are a blast

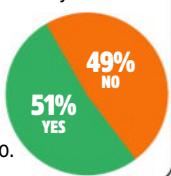
The beach is the perfect symbol of summer! What can beat sunshine, sand, and the sound of crashing waves? If you like to go in the water, there's nothing better than waiting for the next wave and letting it carry you along, even if it's only for a brief moment. The ocean also keeps adventure lovers and thrill seekers busy—they can boogie board, skin board, surf, parasail, scuba dive, or paraglide. Even if people don't want to go in the water, there's still so much to do at the beach. They can build towering sand castles, collect beautiful seashells and smooth rocks, or spot crabs and other sea creatures.

NO Three reasons the lake is not better than the ocean

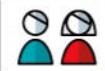
- 1 Nothing can beat a sunny, sandy beach. Add some fun waves to that, and it's the perfect summer spot.
- 2 There are endless activities for active beachgoers who crave adventure, like surfing, parasailing, and paragliding.
- 3 Even people who don't want to go in the ocean can have a blast right on the sand.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, our poll asked if we should stop using leather. Your votes were very close to being a tie: 51% of you said yes, while 49% of you said no.



The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Storytelling to the beat

In his latest role, Utkarsh Ambudkar brings hip-hop to kids and families.

Actor, comedian, and rapper Utkarsh Ambudkar has spent his career weaving hip-hop music into his work across stage and screen—and now animation. In the Apple TV+ musical *Lulu Is a Rhinoceros*, based on the best-selling book, he voices Hip-Hop, a cheerful bunny friend to Lulu, a bulldog who believes she is a rhinoceros on the inside.

Raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Ambudkar always loved entertaining. "I've had it since I can remember—the need to make up songs, make people laugh, write stories, or daydream," he told *The Week Junior*. He went on to earn an acting degree from New York University and joined Freestyle Love Supreme, a hip-hop improv group founded by *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Ambudkar has since appeared in many films and shows like the *Pitch Perfect* films,

Ghosts, and the rap comedy *World's Best*, which he co-wrote. In *Lulu Is a Rhinoceros*, his character helps Lulu stay true to herself. He said he loved being in something he could enjoy with his kids and hopes families "walk away feeling closer."

Through musical projects such as these, Ambudkar showcases how hip-hop can tell stories that bring people together, calling it "a global language." He also teaches beatboxing to kids and has seen it spark meaningful conversations. "When you rap, beatbox, or dance, everyone feels it," he said. "You can get a lot of emotion across with a few words with the right rhyme."

Ambudkar likes to tell young artists to be patient and have trust in themselves and their work. "You've got to make a lot of not-so-great things before you make good things," he said. "So don't quit."



The new show



MUSIC HISTORY
Hip-hop began on August 11, 1973, when 18-year-old DJ Kool Herc used two turntables to mix beats at a New York City party.

Utkarsh Ambudkar

Helping others heal

Former ballet dancer and US Marine Román Baca is the co-founder, with his wife Lisa, of Exit12 Dance Company, which supports military veterans through dance. After serving overseas (2001-2007), dance helped Baca process difficult memories from combat. With Exit12, he leads workshops around the country, where veterans transform their war experiences into powerful performances. The aim is to build community, inspire creativity, and advocate for veterans' issues. He told *The New York Times* this is best done "through play, laughter, and joy."



Rómán Baca



Laurie Marker

A wildlife champion

Dr. Laurie Marker is dedicated to safeguarding cheetahs. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, she first traveled to Namibia as a researcher and discovered that farmers were killing cheetahs to defend their livestock. In 1990, she moved there to found the Cheetah Conservation Fund and created community programs that continue to help farmers and cheetahs share the land safely. Her work protects the estimated 7,000 wild cheetahs left across Africa and Asia and promotes global conservation efforts. "To save the cheetah, the world does have to change," Marker told PBS.

OVERHEARD



"As a kid, I was Hiccup for Halloween. I'm very proud of it."

Actor Mason Thames, age 17, who plays Hiccup in the new live-action adaptation of *How to Train Your Dragon*



Animals and the environment



A seal named Whirligig was fitted with a tracker.

Seal spotted in grassland

A fur seal recently appeared in a very unexpected place. The young seal was found resting on a trail in Chile's Torres del Paine National Park, nearly 30 miles from the ocean. Experts think it may have entered through a channel that connects to one of the park's rivers. They carefully transported the seal to a beach.



The seal

Tracking seal pups' epic journeys

Each year, the UK's Cornish Seal Sanctuary helps more than 70 rescued gray seal pups get back to full health. In its seal hospital, staff can look after six ill seal pups at a time. Recently, the sanctuary has been working with the University of Exeter on a project to track where the seals go once they're released into the wild.

The project is led by Luis Huckstadt, who attached GPS trackers to 16 seal pups that were released from the sanctuary. The data collected from the trackers will help researchers understand how seals adapt when they go back into the wild.



Maggot "waves" underwater.

Each seal pup was set free in the ocean near Cornwall, England. After being released, a pup named Selkie was the first of the tagged seals to cross international waters.

He swam up the River Somme in northern France and then settled in the English Channel, a narrow area of the Atlantic Ocean between France and England.

Another pup, named Maggot, surprised researchers when she traveled more than 150 miles across the English Channel to Brittany, France. Meanwhile, a pup named Dung Beetle headed to Ireland and began exploring its southern coast.

Some of the pups preferred to stick closer to home. One seal named Whirligig, who was originally rescued from Weymouth in Dorset, England, immediately swam home after he was released. In the spring, Whirligig was seen relaxing around Brixham Harbor on the south coast of Devon, also in England.

Anne van Domberg from the Cornish Seal Sanctuary said, "For the first time, we're seeing where these pups go, how quickly they settle, and where they find feeding grounds." During the most recent winter, the animal care team at the sanctuary treated more than 30 seal pups. Van Domberg said it was heartwarming to see the seals thriving and exploring after they were released into the world. She said, "It's real proof that our work matters."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Canaveral National Seashore, Florida

Spanning 58,000 acres on Florida's Atlantic coast, Canaveral National Seashore is a habitat for at least 15 threatened or endangered animal species. Mosquito Lagoon, one of the most naturally diverse lagoons in North America, makes up two thirds of the park. The area is a hotspot for wading birds like the roseate spoonbill, and thousands of sea turtles nest in the sand along the 24-mile-long seashore. Tourists can also visit Turtle Mound and Seminole Rest Historic Site, which show evidence of human activity in the area from thousands of years ago.



A roseate spoonbill



DID YOU KNOW?

Horses can breathe through their noses but not through their mouths.



A horse's face can be surprisingly expressive.

Horses have facial expressions

Although many people think of horses as always having a long face, new research is challenging that assumption. A new study has found that horses also make different faces depending on the situation.

Scientists in the UK watched 36 domesticated (tamed) horses interact with each other on video. After studying 72 hours of footage, they noticed that some facial expressions occurred more often in certain situations. When horses were paying attention to something, for example, their ears moved forward and pulled together.

During more aggressive interactions, the horses' ears pressed backward and flattened while their nostrils flared. But during playful encounters, the horses widened their eyes, pushed their noses forward, and opened their mouths. Similar expressions have been observed in primates, such as chimpanzees and humans, during play.

Researchers said it's important to notice many different aspects of a horse's face to understand what it is trying to communicate. They hope these findings will help improve animal care.

Animal of the Week

Blyde Rondavel flat gecko



Two researchers recently spotted the Blyde Rondavel flat gecko in a nature reserve. The gecko was formerly considered a "lost species" because it had not been seen since 1991. In a three-day trip, the researchers saw nearly 30 of these geckos.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 5 to 10 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Mountains and canyons in South Africa
- **SIZE:** About 3 inches long
- **DIET:** Insects, fruit, nectar
- **FUN FACT:** These geckos have golden eyes, and their tails have a purplish sheen.



Good week / Bad week



Asiatic lions

Lion habitats in Gujarat, India, have expanded by more than 16% since 2020 thanks to local conservation efforts. This has helped increase the Asiatic lion population by 32%, reaching a total of 891 lions in a recent count.



Female frogs

New research showed that 98.6% of female frog sounds are unknown to scientists. Male frogs typically call more loudly in order to attract a mate. This can drown out females' voices, making it harder for experts to understand and protect them.

Enter The Week Junior's Nature Photo Contest!

Do you love taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? Now is your chance to use your creativity, curiosity, and skills to enter The Week Junior's Nature Photo Contest. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2025PhotoContest-8-10 and 11- to 14-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2025PhotoContest-11-14. Winning entries will be featured in a September 2025 issue of the magazine. See the official rules at theweekjunior.com/photocontestrules.



The deadline to enter is July 28.



All about skateboarding

Tricks, turns, and a

More than 9 million people in the US skateboarded last year.

Started by surfers in California, skateboarding is now a worldwide phenomenon. Let's take a ride through the sport's history.

Many styles

Skateboarding is one of the extreme sports, a group that also includes mountain biking and snowboarding. There are different styles, such as Vert, which involves riding vertical surfaces like ramps to get high in the air to do tricks (see the box "Board moves" below). Another style is Street, which involves doing tricks on handrails, benches, and stairs. Dedicated skate parks, featuring ramps known as quarter-pipes or half-pipes that skaters use to launch into the air, provide a place to try out tricks. In addition to traditional skateboards, there are longboards, which are longer and wider and easier to balance when going downhill or on long rides.



A longboard



Tony Hawk

The sport gets rolling

Skateboarding began in California in the 1950s, with surfers looking for something to do when the waves were flat. They began "sidewalk surfing" with roller-skate wheels attached to a piece of wood. In 1963, Larry Stevenson launched the company Makaha, which is credited with creating the first modern skateboards, modeled on surfboards. Later, Stevenson added a kicktail, which made more tricks possible. During the 1970s, skaters riding in empty swimming pools in California led to the rise of Vert skating. In the 1990s, Tony Hawk increased the sport's popularity with dazzling air tricks and a top-selling video game series named after him.



Sky Brown of Team Great Britain practices at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Board moves

Ollie and kickflip

A foundational trick of skateboarding, an ollie (right) is when a skater jumps and the board stays with their feet. A kickflip is when the skater flips the board underfoot midair.



Grind and slide

These moves are done on rails and ledges. A grind (right) is when a skater rides a rail or ledge on the trucks (metal parts) under the board. A slide refers to riding a rail or ledge using the underside of the deck (wooden part of the board).





thrilling ride



Vert skating

Let the Games begin

The first X Games, dedicated to extreme sports like skateboarding, were held in 1995. X Games skateboarding competitions typically feature categories such as Park, Street, Vert, and "Best Trick." Another breakthrough for competitive skateboarding came when it made its Olympic debut at the Tokyo Games in 2021. The sport's governing body is World Skate, which organizes the World Skateboarding Tour that decides which skaters qualify for the Olympic Games. Olympic skating is split between Park and Street competitions, and skaters are scored on how impressive their tricks are. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, Keegan Palmer and Arisa Trew of Australia won gold medals in the men's and women's Park events, respectively. Yuto Horigome and Coco Yoshizawa of Japan took home gold in the men's and women's Street events.



At the 2024 Summer Olympics

Skateboarding today

The popularity of skateboarding has increased since it became an Olympic sport. Skateboard sales generated more than \$3 billion worldwide in 2022, and an estimated 2,800 skateparks are now open in the US. Some of the most famous skateboarders active today are Zion Wright, Leticia Bufoni, and Jagger Eaton. "My favorite thing about skateboarding is the ability to create when you get on the board," Eaton, a two-time Olympic medalist, told *The Week Junior*. "That ability to do exactly what I want to do right then in that moment—it's the best feeling."

Manual

A manual is when a skater rides on the back wheels of the board with the front wheels popped up. This trick helps riders learn to balance. A nose manual (right) refers to a skater riding the board on just the front wheels.



Grabs

Many tricks involve skaters grabbing their board in midair (right). A nosegrab is when a skater grabs the board's front end, and a tailgrab is when a skater grabs its back end. Side grabs are called front-side or back-side grabs.





Adélie penguins in Antarctica

Penguin poop affects clouds

Penguins are contributing to the fight against climate change in Antarctica, where warmer temperatures are causing ice to melt and putting wildlife at risk. In a new study, scientists found that penguin guano (the poop of seabirds and bats) is triggering a natural process that slows ice melt on the continent.

The team of researchers from the University of Helsinki in Finland focused on Adélie penguins, the smallest species in Antarctica. The animals, who eat fish and krill (tiny, shrimp-like creatures), leave so much guano on rocky and icy surfaces that it's visible from space. That guano releases a gas called ammonia, which can create clouds.

Typically, clouds form when water vapor condenses (turns into liquid droplets) around particles in the air, such as dust. But Antarctica's air is so clean that it doesn't have many of these particles. Instead, water vapor condenses around sulfuric acid molecules that are released by phytoplankton (microscopic organisms) in the nearby ocean. Ammonia is known to speed up the creation of these molecules, which in turn leads to the production of more clouds.



Matthew Boyer in Antarctica

Once the clouds are created, they reflect the Sun's rays and act as insulating layers within the atmosphere (a blanket of gases that surrounds the planet). The layers often help reduce surface temperatures, which can affect the icy landscape.

For more than two months, the team of researchers measured ammonia in the air at a site near Marambio Base, a research station.

Marambio is close to a colony of 30,000 pairs of Adélie penguins.

When the air blew from the direction of the colony, the amount of ammonia in the air was more than 1,000 times higher than the normal level.

The scientists later saw fog (clouds of small droplets of water near the ground) that they believe was created by the higher number of particles. They don't yet know the exact consequences of the clouds, but the study will influence how clouds are factored into future climate research.

"There are connections between things that happen on our natural planet that we just don't necessarily expect," Matthew Boyer, the lead author of the study, told *The Washington Post*. "And this is one of them."

Antarctica gains ice



An iceberg in Antarctica

Despite climate change, the ice sheet that covers Antarctica has thickened in recent years, a new study discovered. Scientists at Tongji University in China studied data from NASA satellites and tracked changes in the continent's ice sheet for more than 20 years. While the ice shrank overall during that time, it gained mass (the amount of matter in an object) between 2021 and 2023.

The researchers concluded that this gain was not due to any reversal of climate change. Instead, it was the result of increased amounts of snow and rain during that time. New NASA data shows that the ice sheet has since continued to shrink and is now similar to where it was in 2020, just before its period of growth.



Scientists accidentally turn lead into gold

Hundreds of years ago, scientists called alchemists tried to turn metals such as lead or copper into silver and gold. Now researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), near Geneva, Switzerland, have unexpectedly managed to do just that—although very briefly—during their experiments.

The LHC is a powerful machine that makes particles (tiny bits of atoms, which are the building blocks of the universe) travel at high speeds. At nearly 17 miles long, it sits in a tunnel more than 300 feet underground. The machine is run by CERN, a European research organization that studies the behavior of particles.

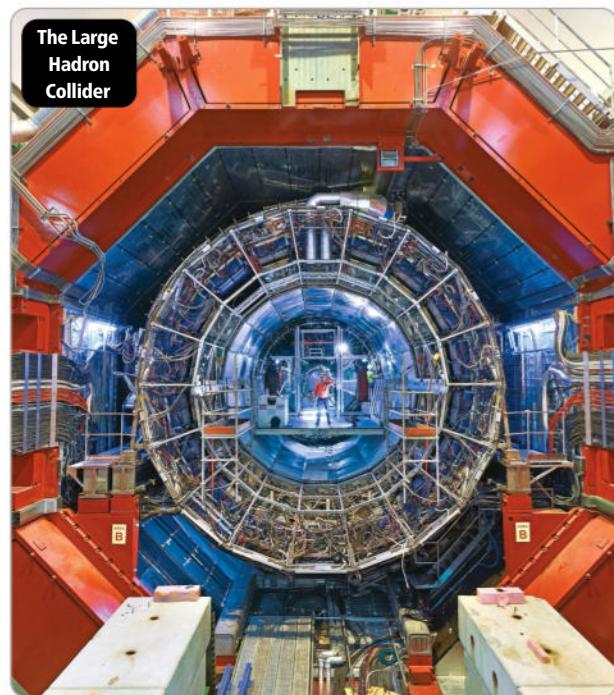
During the experiments, scientists aimed two beams of lead atoms at each

other. The beams were traveling extremely fast. As the atoms moved past each other, they interacted. This caused three smaller particles, called protons, to be knocked out of the lead atoms. A lead atom contains 82

protons, and a gold atom contains 79. When the lead atoms lost three of their protons, leaving them with 79, they turned into gold atoms.

Early alchemists would probably have been disappointed, however, because only very tiny amounts of gold were created. By one estimate, even if the LHC worked nonstop for billions of years, it would only make enough gold to form a single wedding ring. The gold survived for less than a second before it smashed into something or broke apart.

WHITE HOT
When beams of atoms collide in the LHC, they can generate temperatures 100,000 times hotter than the Sun.



Beautiful scenery can inspire awe.

Moments of awe boost health

When you stare at the sea or witness a beautiful sunset, you may have a feeling of awe, which is similar to wonder or amazement. In a recent study, scientists found that awe can reduce depression (feeling sad and having a lack of energy over a long period).

The scientists worked with 68 people who had a condition called long Covid. A small number of people who have had Covid-19 develop this condition, which can have symptoms

including depression. They divided participants into two groups.

One group was told to pause three times a day for less than 30 seconds to experience moments of awe. They did this by slowing down and paying attention to everyday things they found amazing. The other group was not asked to do this.

People in the first group reported a 17% decrease in depression symptoms. The scientists concluded that awe leads to better health.



A camper with great views

The Naledi Camper



Waking up to a scenic view is one of the best parts of camping, but that can be difficult in an enclosed trailer. The Naledi Camper solves that with large frameless windows on either side that bring the outside in.

The windows are made of thick safety glass that can

handle being hauled over rough terrain. The camper is powered by solar roof panels and a rechargeable battery and has a ceiling fan, LED lights, a compact kitchen with a refrigerator, and a foam mattress for comfort. The Naledi is currently available to purchase in South Africa.



Photos of the week

2025
WORLD FOOD
PHOTOGRAPHY
AWARDS
SPONSORED BY TENDERSTEM®
FINALISTS



Piece time

This picture of layer cakes and slices was taken by Chloe Hardwick.



Edible art

Kate Ireland captured the intricate details of a pink oyster mushroom.

Perfect bite

Costas Millas shot this close-up of spaghetti and a meatball on a fork.



UNUT TORE; CHLOE HARDWICK; COSTAS MILLAS; KATHY KORDALIS; KATE IRELAND/PECK OF PICKLES; BAIBA OPIJU

Photos of the week



Sweet treat

Candy fills a colorful sandwich in this image taken by Umut Töre.



Table setting

Kris Kirkham took this photo of a lush fairy-tale banquet.





Sports

BIG TRIP

The Edmonton Oilers and Florida Panthers play in cities that are 2,541 miles apart, the farthest distance in the history of the Stanley Cup Finals.



The Florida Panthers lift the Stanley Cup.

Trophy caretaker



Many pro sports trophies are made each year for a new winner, but there is only one Stanley Cup. Phil Pritchard (above), who works for the Hockey Hall of Fame, is known as the "Keeper of the Cup." Since 1994, he has escorted it wherever it goes to keep it safe.

Panthers are Stanley Cup champs

The 2024–25 NHL (National Hockey League) season ended on June 17 at Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise, Florida, where the Florida Panthers won the Stanley Cup for the second year in a row. In a rematch of last year's finals, they once again defeated the Edmonton Oilers, securing the championship with a 5–1 win in Game 6 of the best-of-seven game finals.

The teams were two of the 16 teams that made the Stanley Cup Playoffs, which began on April 19. The Panthers earned their spot by finishing the regular season in third place in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference. The Oilers came in third in the Pacific Division of the Western Conference.



Leon Draisaitl

The Stanley Cup Final began on June 4 and got off to a thrilling start, with the first two games going to overtime. The Oilers won Game 1 thanks to a goal by center Leon Draisaitl, who had also scored earlier in the game. The Panthers won Game 2 with a goal by center Brad Marchand, his second goal of that game.

Florida dominated Game 3 and won, 6–1, and they got off to a hot start in Game 4, scoring the first three goals of the contest. The Oilers answered back with three consecutive goals in the second period, and the game eventually went to overtime with the score tied, 4–4. In the extra period, Draisaitl was the hero again, delivering the game-winning goal to

tie the series at 2–2. The Panthers put together another strong performance in Game 5 and won it, 5–2, to take control of the series.

Florida was excellent again in Game 6, scoring twice in the opening period. Heading into the third period, they had a 3–0 lead over the Oilers. Despite generating many shots on goal and a late goal in the third period, the Oilers were unable to win and force a Game 7. Panthers center Sam Reinhart scored four goals in the contest, and their goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves.

After the game, Panthers forward Sam Bennett was named the winner of the 2025 Conn Smythe Trophy, an award given to the Most Valuable Player of the NHL playoffs. He led all players with 15 playoff goals, including five in the Stanley Cup Final.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

The US Men's National Team beat Haiti, 2–1, on June 22 in its final match of the group stage of the Concacaf Gold Cup, a tournament between the top national soccer teams in North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. The US ended the group stage undefeated and in first place within their group. Malik Tillman has led the US in scoring at the Gold Cup with three goals. The US will play Costa Rica in the quarterfinals.



Aerial Powers of the Golden State Valkyries (left)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On June 22, the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Washington Nationals, 13–7. The Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani made his second pitching start after arm surgery. He threw for one inning and struck out two batters. He also hit two home runs.

BASKETBALL

The WNBA's new team, the Golden State Valkyries, beat the Connecticut Sun, 87–63, on June 22. It was their fourth straight victory at home and their fifth win in six games.

WILD FACT
LSU has a live tiger mascot named Mike that lives in a tiger habitat on campus and is cared for by veterinary staff and students.

Sports



The LSU baseball team celebrates.

LSU wins Men's College World Series

On June 22, baseball teams from Louisiana State University (LSU) and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) faced off in the deciding game of the Men's College World Series (MCWS) in Omaha, Nebraska. LSU won, 5–3, to complete a two-game sweep in the final and secure their second baseball championship in the past three years. LSU now has eight national titles in baseball.

The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division 1 Baseball Championship tournament began on May 30 with 64 teams. LSU was seeded (ranked) sixth, while CCU was 13th. Eight teams made the MCWS.

LSU entered the final without a loss in the MCWS, while CCU had won 26 straight games dating back to April. Game 1 of the best-of-three series final took place on June 21, and LSU won,

1–0. The victory was due in large part to an incredible performance by pitcher Kade Anderson, who completed all nine innings on the mound, striking out 10 batters and allowing three hits.

In Game 2, CCU's starting pitcher was Jacob Morrison, who had not lost a game all season. In the first inning, CCU's head coach and first base coach disputed calls by the umpires, and both were ejected. In the second inning, CCU took a 1–0 lead, but LSU tied things up in the top of the third, then scored four runs in the fourth. CCU's Wells Sykes hit a two-run homer in the seventh, but the team was unable to make a full comeback.

Anderson was named the Most Outstanding Player of the MCWS. He started two games in Omaha, and he allowed one run and six hits over 16 innings and also struck out 17 batters.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Faith Choi

AGE: 22 SPORT: GOLF

TEAM: OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY/INDIVIDUAL

Tee time When I started playing golf, my parents didn't play, but my granddad on my dad's side did, so we think it was in my blood. I was a gymnast for a long time and had quit golf, but after a bad injury, I picked up golf again. Freshman year in high school, I started to get recruited by colleges.

Hard work

On a regular day, I practice for two or three hours in the morning, then play a round, which can take four hours or more. I also stay in shape by going to the gym. People always say, "Golf's not really a sport," but they don't realize that at a tournament, you have to walk 72 holes in four days. It's a lot. I also have to keep up my strength so I can hit as far as I can.



Staying happy I try not to put too much pressure on myself. I want to win events, but at the same time, I'm playing this sport because I love it. I have to enjoy it first before I can compete and try to be the best in the world.

Mind trick To help calm my nerves, I always take a few deep breaths before anything major.

Favorite aspect I love traveling for golf and seeing new places. Playing so many different courses is fun because not every golf course is the same. I also like getting to meet so many people.

Key to success The biggest thing I've learned is that your parents can only push you so much. In the end, your work ethic, how much effort you want to put into your sport, and how much you want to practice is all up to you.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: Jordyn Boswell

Sport: Gymnastics

"Coach Jordyn is the best! Whenever I am scared, she encourages me and believes in me. You can always tell she cares about all of us and wants us to get our skills. Once, I had lost one of my skills and was scared, but Jordyn helped me and spotted me until I could do it by myself again. At competitions, she is nice to everyone. She is very relatable because she is also a gymnast on an upper level. She pushes us to be the best gymnasts we can be." Lucy, 11, Virginia



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment



Superman

DID YOU KNOW?
Superman comic book creator Jerry Siegel originally imagined the character as a super-powered villain.

A new *Superman* movie

One of the most famous superheroes of all time is soaring back into action on the big screen.

For more than 85 years, Superman has been a beloved hero and a symbol of hope and justice in comic books, TV shows, and popular films. Now the character is headed back to the big screen in the new movie *Superman*, which will be released in theaters on July 11.

It is rated PG-13.

Superman first appeared in 1938 in the DC comic book *Action Comics* #1. He is from the planet Krypton but was raised on Earth by humans as Clark Kent. He works

as a newspaper reporter, and no one knows he is Superman, whose powers include flight, super strength, and x-ray vision. The character has been portrayed by several actors. In the new film, David

Corenswet takes on the role for the first time.

Two of the other main characters are Lois Lane, a fellow reporter and Clark's love interest, and archvillain Lex Luthor. The movie also features villains Ultraman and the Engineer, plus a new threat, the Hammer of Boravia.

The film is the first release from DC Studios, a new division focused on



Isabela Merced

rebooting the DC cinematic universe, where superheroes have interconnected stories. It is led by filmmaker James Gunn, who directed the popular *Guardians of the Galaxy* films for Marvel. Some of the heroes from upcoming DC films who will appear in *Superman* include Mister Terrific, Hawkgirl, and Green Lantern.

Isabela Merced, who plays Hawkgirl, told *The Week Junior* that *Superman* has "heart and humor" and is "not just about powers, it's about purpose." She said watching Superman's goodness on screen gave her comfort. "He doesn't just fight for people, he believes in them," Merced said.

3 fun Superman facts

Super seller

A copy of *Action Comics* #1, which introduced the Superman character, cost 10 cents when it came out in 1938. In 2024, an original copy sold for \$6 million, making it the most valuable comic book in the world.



National honor

In 2006, Superman was featured on postage stamps as part of a special DC Comics Super Heroes series released by the United States Postal Service. The collection also featured other iconic characters, such as Batman, Wonder Woman, and Green Lantern.



Famous location

Metropolis, Illinois, shares its name with the fictional city where Superman lives. It hosts an annual event celebrating the character and is home to the Superman Museum (above), which opened in 1993.



Jurassic
World Rebirth

Next *Jurassic Park* chapter begins

Each year, a film that is expected to be a major blockbuster is released in theaters around the Fourth of July. This year, it's *Jurassic World Rebirth*, which begins a new chapter in the dinosaur-filled sci-fi adventure franchise. It will arrive in theaters on July 2 and is rated PG-13.

The first *Jurassic Park* film came out in 1993. It was based on a best-selling novel by Michael Crichton. The premise was that dinosaurs were brought back to life in the present day to fill an island safari park, but then dangerous species, including T. rex, end up escaping their areas. There were two sequels to that film, followed by the *Jurassic World* trilogy and two related animated adventure series on Netflix.

Rebirth features new characters and is set on an island where there had been a *Jurassic Park* research facility. Many ferocious dinosaurs,

including the massive Titanosaurus, the flying Quetzalcoatlus, and some mutant hybrids, still live there. A team led by a covert operations specialist (played by Scarlett Johansson) heads to the island to retrieve genetic material from dinosaurs to help create a lifesaving drug. A shipwrecked family

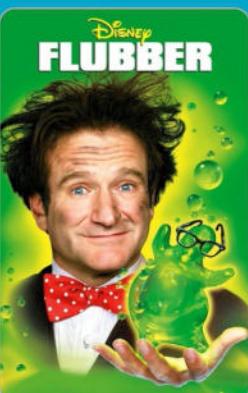
also arrives on the island, and they all end up in danger. Much of the action was filmed on location in Thailand.

The film's writer, David Koepp, said the idea for the movie's mission was based in real-life science: He learned that large dinosaurs lived a long time because they rarely developed heart disease.

One theme in *Jurassic Park* is "Life finds a way." Koepp said it can apply to the ability of nature and the dinosaurs to persevere, as well as the characters' struggle. "They will manage to prevail and survive," he said. "Or they don't!"



Scarlett Johansson



READER RECOMMENDS

Flubber PG (Disney+)

"This is a funny movie about a mad scientist, Professor Philip Brainard, who forgets things a lot—even his wedding day. The college where he works is in danger of closing, and he hopes that inventing a new energy source will save it. In the process, he accidentally creates a rubber-like substance he calls Flubber, short for "flying rubber," because it can bounce super high and even fly. He uses Flubber to make his car fly and help the school's basketball team win. He soon realizes Flubber might be the key to saving the college before it is too late." Danya, 10, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



American Ninja Warrior

(NBC) (Peacock)

In this hit competition series, elite athletes tackle challenging obstacle courses that test speed, strength, and agility. Season 17 features returning fan favorites and new challengers. The winner of the head-to-head finals will take home a \$250,000 grand prize.



Dora and the Search for Sol Dorado (Paramount+)

The animated series *Dora the Explorer* inspired this live-action film. After finding an enchanted bracelet linked to a legendary city, Dora sets off into the Amazon with her cousin Diego and Boots the monkey. Together, they race to protect a treasure that is said to grant one wish.



Frozen: The Hit Broadway Musical (Disney+)

This special is a filmed performance of the stage musical based on Disney's animated film *Frozen*. It tells the story of sisters Elsa and Anna from the kingdom of Arendelle and features the original songs from the movie along with 12 new ones written for the show.



On screen

MUSIC HISTORY

The Tetris theme song was inspired by the 19th-century Russian folk song "Korobeiniki."



Arle



Puyo Puyo Tetris 2S



Tee

A popular puzzle crossover returns

Puyo Puyo Tetris 2S is a new version of a popular crossover puzzle game. It was recently released exclusively for the Nintendo Switch 2.

As the title suggests, the game is a mix of Tetris, the famous falling shapes game, and Puyo Puyo, a Japanese puzzle game with falling, silly-faced blobs called puyo. The original Puyo Puyo Tetris was released in 2014, and Puyo Puyo Tetris 2 came out in 2020. In the game, players could take on Puyo Puyo and Tetris puzzles separately or in Fusion mode, which featured the puyo and Tetris tetrominoes on the screen at the same time. The goal was to stack, move, and transform them to create combos and keep the board from filling up.

The updated game has the same concept, but it has some new features as well as 12 game modes with a variety of rule possibilities. There is even a version of the game with a board

that switches between Tetris and Puyo Puyo. Players can take on the action solo or in Doubles mode, which features pairs working together to guide the shapes in one board while competing against two other players in another. Four gamers can also battle against each other as individuals. To try to beat your opponents, you can toss objects into their boards.

Puyo Puyo Tetris 2S isn't just puzzles, though. There is a story mode with 40 playable characters, including Sonic the Hedgehog.

As you progress, you can enter Skill Battles and gain upgrades to your characters' abilities. You can collect item cards, too, which can make attacks even more explosive.

The new game lets you take advantage of the Switch 2's special features. With the console's camera, you can literally get in the game by having a video of your face as a board's background.



FUN CHALLENGE

SUMMER LISTENING CHALLENGE

jonincharacter.com/summer-listening/

Instead of the typical reading challenge, this one involves listening to two episodes from eight participating kids' podcasts by August 15. Use the challenge tracker to mark your progress, and when you've completed the goal, you'll receive a certificate along with a special video message.

Summer Listening CHALLENGE

GAME OF THE WEEK



CATTLE COUNTRY

Nintendo Switch, Xbox, PlayStation 5, PC

This simulation game is similar to the popular farm game Stardew Valley but is set in the Wild West. Players create a life for themselves by building a home in the mountains, protecting their farm from bandits, mining for minerals, and making friends with fellow townspeople.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

MAINE LOBSTER MUSEUM

mainelobstermuseum.org

Learn about lobsters through this virtual museum experience (tickets start at \$10). The site has seven exhibits, including ones about lobster biology and lobsters in pop culture. Visitors can also symbolically adopt a lobster to support education and marine conservation efforts.



Book club

SUMMER OF READING FEATURED PICK

One Crazy Summer: The Graphic Novel

By Rita Williams-Garcia, illustrated by Sharee Miller
(HarperAlley)

One Crazy Summer, an award-winning historical fiction book published 15 years ago, has been adapted into a graphic novel. It takes place in the summer of 1968, when three sisters—Delphine, age 11, Vonetta, age 9, and Fern, age 7—fly from New York City, where they live with their dad and his mother, to Oakland, California, to spend a month with their mom, Cecile. She left for California when Fern was a baby. After the sisters arrive, Cecile tells them to go out and buy Chinese food. Delphine watches out for her siblings as they navigate the new neighborhood. Cecile wants to concentrate on her poetry, so she sends the sisters to a day camp run by the Black Panthers (an organization that was founded to advocate for Black Americans). Although Delphine doesn't agree with all the group's ideas, the camp helps her understand her mother. One afternoon, the girls return home to find the police arresting Cecile. What will happen to the sisters now? This moving story is packed with history and contains many happy and sad moments.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

In *One Crazy Summer: The Graphic Novel*, three sisters reunite with their mom, and the illustrations bring the story's themes of belonging and racial injustice to life. Here are questions to get a conversation going with others who have read the book.

Which sister would you most want to be friends with and why?

Why do you think Cecile doesn't act like a typical mother?

How do your feelings about Cecile change as the story progresses?

What do you like most about the illustrations?

When you read the story, what surprised you most about this period in history?

Did the ending catch you off guard? Explain your answer.

If you read the original novel, what are some of the similarities and differences?



Ask the Author Ambassador

Rita Williams-Garcia won the Coretta Scott King Award and the Newbery Honor for *One Crazy Summer* in 2011. The book's sequels, *P.S. Be Eleven* and *Gone Crazy in Alabama*, also received many awards. She recently adapted *One Crazy Summer* into a graphic novel format.



What was it like turning the story into a graphic novel?

The process took about a year and a half. Every day, I had to convince myself I could do it. My editors helped me think about the story in a more visual way. Paring down the words was the biggest challenge. After I wrote it, we sent it all to the illustrator.

How did you react when you first saw the illustrations?

I couldn't get over seeing the drawings of the characters for the first time, especially the brown-skinned sisters.

Did you always want to write?

I went to kindergarten already reading and writing. Whenever there was time for drawing, I would ask for a pencil and paper so I could write my stories. By the time I was 12, I was writing 500 words a night of my own novel about my adventures in school.

Most surprising fact about you?

I'm a huge boxing fan and even trained in the sport at a famous gym in New York City, where I live.

What's your best advice for budding authors?

Great writers begin as great readers. Find the types of stories you love and read lots of them. Then be adventurous. Read science books, for instance! I am able to create similes and metaphors in my writing because I read outside my comfort zone and interests.

Favorite food for a celebration?

Waffles with homemade blueberry jam.



Our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes, and more can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.





BONUS
ACTIVITY
SECTION

How to...

Make fresh summer recipes

Use the flavors of the season to whip up these light and delicious drinks, meals, and desserts!

MANGO ICY

Ingredients

- 2 cups frozen mango
- 4 teaspoons honey
- Juice of 2 limes
- Lime wedges, for garnish (optional)
- Chili lime seasoning, for garnish (optional)

Instructions

1. Combine mango, honey, and lime juice in a blender with 1½ cups ice and ½ cup water. Blend until smooth. If needed, add water 1 tablespoon at a time to get desired consistency.
2. Evenly divide between two glasses and garnish each with a lime wedge and a sprinkle of chili lime seasoning, if using. Drink immediately. Makes 2 servings.



COCONUT CORN CHOWDER

Ingredients

- 5 strips bacon, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon curry powder
- 3 cups frozen corn
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 (14-ounce) can coconut milk
- 12 ounces baby red potatoes, halved
- Juice of 1 lime
- ½ cup chopped cilantro, plus more for serving

WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stove, oven, or blender for any recipes on these pages.

Instructions

1. In a large pot over medium heat, cook the bacon until crisp. Transfer to a plate lined with a paper towel.
2. Spoon away all but a tablespoon of oil in the pot. Add the onion, garlic, salt, pepper, curry powder, and corn. Cook until the corn is warmed through, about 4 minutes.
3. Add the broth and coconut milk and bring to a simmer.
4. Stir in the potatoes and cook until tender, about 12 minutes.
5. Remove the soup from the heat. Place half in a blender and puree until smooth. Return it to the pot along with bacon, lime juice, and cilantro. Serve the soup hot with more cilantro. Makes 6 servings.



CAPRESE PASTA SALAD

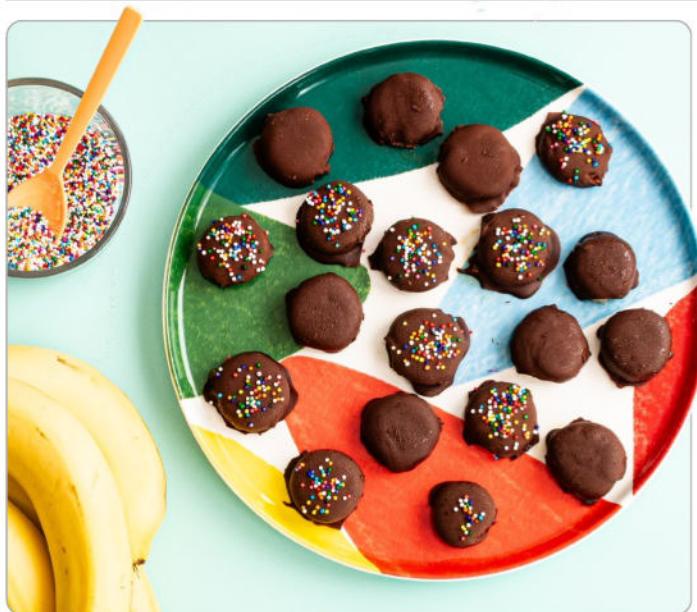
Ingredients

- ½ cup plus 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, sliced, plus 1 clove grated
- ½ cup panko bread crumbs
- 12 ounces radiatori or fusilli pasta
- 8 ounces mini mozzarella balls, halved
- 10 basil leaves, roughly chopped
- 3 cups baby spinach
- ½ small red onion, sliced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper

Instructions

1. In a small skillet over medium heat, warm the tablespoon of oil. Add sliced garlic. Cook 1 minute.
2. Add the bread crumbs and continue to cook, stirring frequently, until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer immediately to a small bowl, stir in a pinch of salt, and let cool.
3. Cook pasta according to package directions. Rinse with cool water and transfer to a large bowl.
4. Add the mozzarella, basil, spinach, red onion, and tomatoes to the pasta bowl.
5. In a small bowl, whisk together remaining ½ cup olive oil, grated garlic, honey, and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Add the dressing to the pasta bowl and stir. Serve the salad with the bread crumbs on the side for topping. Serves 6–8.

BASIL BLISS
 "Caprese" is an Italian word that refers to a salad consisting of mozzarella, tomatoes, basil, and olive oil.



FROZEN BANANA BITES

Ingredients

- 2 large, slightly firm bananas
- 12 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- ¼ cup rainbow sprinkles

BUNCHES OF BANANAS

There are more than 1,000 types of bananas in the world, and they are grown in over 150 countries.

Instructions

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Slice each banana into ½-inch-thick rounds and arrange on sheet. Freeze solid, about 2 hours.
2. Combine the chocolate chips and coconut oil in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 30 seconds, stir, then continue to heat in 10-second bursts, stirring vigorously after each, until fully melted.
3. Dip a banana slice in the chocolate. Use the tines of a fork to lift the slice from the chocolate and gently tap to remove excess chocolate. Return it to the baking sheet and top immediately with sprinkles.
4. Repeat with remaining banana slices, chocolate, and sprinkles. Store in freezer until ready to eat. Makes about 2 dozen banana slices.



How to...

CUCUMBER LEMONADE

Ingredients

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 Persian cucumbers
- 1 cup fresh lemon juice (from about 8 lemons)

Instructions

1. In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, combine the sugar with 1 cup cool water. Heat until the sugar is dissolved, then let cool completely.
2. Meanwhile, roughly chop 2 of the cucumbers. Place in a blender and puree until smooth. Strain through a fine mesh sieve into a small cup and discard the pulp.
3. To make the lemonade, stir together the lemon juice with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cucumber juice and 1 cup sugar syrup. Chill in the refrigerator.



4. Just before serving, slice the remaining cucumber. Fill each glass with ice, add the lemonade, and garnish with a few cucumber slices. Makes about 8 cups.

WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stove, oven, or blender for any recipes on these pages.



CRUNCHY SEAWEED SNACK MIX

Ingredients

- 3 cups square-shaped corn cereal
- 1½ cups fish-shaped crackers
- 2 cups square pretzels
- 1 cup mini nacho cheese tortilla chips
- 1 cup roasted peanuts
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- ½ cup Karo syrup
- 1 (1.5- to 2-ounce) jar of nori komi furikake

TASTY TOUCH
Nori komi furikake is a Japanese seasoning made of roasted seaweed, sesame seeds, salt, and other savory ingredients.

Instructions

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and heat oven to 250° F.
2. Place the cereal, crackers, pretzels, tortilla chips, and peanuts together in a large bowl.
3. Combine the butter, soy sauce, and Karo syrup in a small saucepan. Warm over medium-low heat until butter is melted.
4. Pour the butter mixture over the cereal mixture and stir to coat. Add the furikake and stir once more to distribute evenly.
5. Spread the mix on the prepared sheet and bake for 1 hour, stirring halfway through.
6. Remove from oven (cereal may still be slightly soft but will crisp further as it cools). Let cool completely before eating. Store in an airtight container up to 1 week. Makes about 8 cups snack mix.



VEGGIE FRIED RICE

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 4 scallions, whites minced, green parts sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger
- 1½ cups frozen vegetable blend
- 1 cup chopped fresh broccoli
- 3 cups of cold cooked leftover rice
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 eggs, whisked
- ½ teaspoon sesame oil

DID YOU KNOW?

The world's top producer of rice is China, followed by India.

Instructions

1. In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, warm 1 tablespoon oil with the butter until melted.
2. Add the scallion whites, garlic, and ginger and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.
3. Add the frozen vegetables and broccoli and cook, stirring occasionally, until the broccoli is bright green, about 3 minutes.
4. Stir in the rice and soy sauce and continue to cook undisturbed, until the vegetables are tender, about 2 minutes more.
5. Push the rice mixture to the side of the pan, and add the remaining vegetable oil to the empty space. Add the eggs. When they start to set, scrape them from the pan to scramble lightly. When the eggs are almost cooked through, fold them into the rice mixture. Continue to cook until no longer runny, about 1 minute more. Stir in sesame oil.
6. Serve rice immediately with the scallion greens sprinkled on top. Makes 4 to 5 generous servings.

STRAWBERRY ETON MESS

Ingredients

- 1 pound fresh strawberries
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1¾ cups heavy cream
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 3 cups meringue cookies, broken into pieces

Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, stir together the strawberries and sugar. Let sit 10 minutes, then use a fork or masher to crush half the berries and stir once more. Set aside.
2. In another bowl, combine the heavy cream, vanilla, and powdered sugar. Use a hand mixer to whip until stiff peaks form. Gently fold in the meringue cookies.
3. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of the berry mixture into 4 parfait glasses.
4. Top each with ¼ of the meringue mixture, followed by ¼ of the remaining berries. Repeat the layers. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.





SPECIAL
BONUS
SECTION

Puzzles

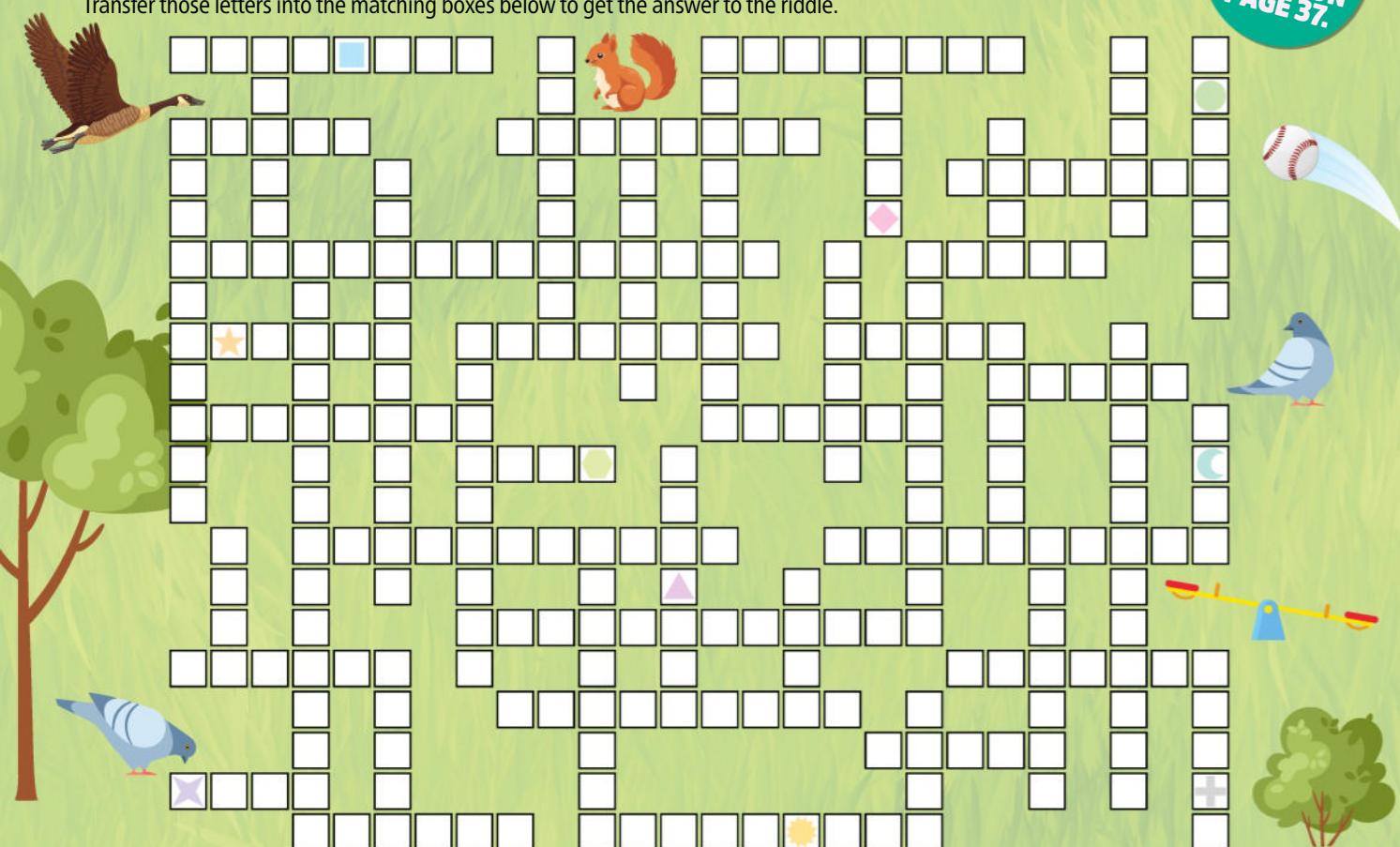


Brain games to challenge you!

A day in the park crisscross

Each of these words associated with going to the park fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid? When you're done, 10 letters will appear in boxes with colored symbols. Transfer those letters into the matching boxes below to get the answer to the riddle.

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 37.



4 letters

BUGS
GATE
KITE
LAKE
LAWN
PETS
POND

5 letters

CATCH
FENCE
GEESE
GRILL
LUNCH
SHADE
SWANS
TRAIL
TREES

6 letters

DOG RUN
GAZEBO
HEDGES
NATURE
SEESAW
STATUE
SWINGS

7 letters

BENCHES
BICYCLE
BLANKET
GARDENS
PIGEONS
SCOOTER

8 letters

BARBECUE
CAROUSEL
FRESH AIR
OUTDOORS
PAVILION
STROLLER
VISITORS

9 letters

BALL FIELD
FOOD STAND
SQUIRRELS
10 letters
GARBAGE CAN
GREEN SPACE
PLAYGROUND
SKATEBOARD

11 letters

HOT DOG STAND
TENNIS COURT

12 letters

BIRD WATCHERS
LITTLE LEAGUE

15 letters

BASKETBALL COURT
KEEP OFF THE GRASS



Q: What did the boy say when asked if he had properly disposed of his recyclables before he left the park?

A: , ,





Puzzles



DETAILS, DETAILS

Six pieces have been removed from this photo of ice cream cups. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?



Juggling act

Use the letters R, T, and O in any order to complete each four-letter word.

R T O

 I

 N

 O

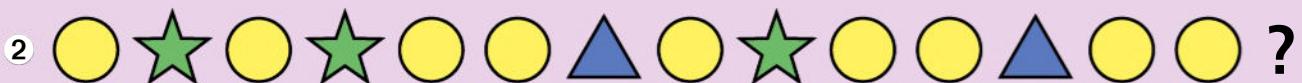
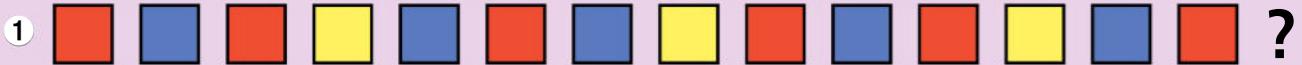
P

 S

 I

Pattern pack

Each of these four sequences forms a different kind of pattern. Can you figure out the missing step in each one?

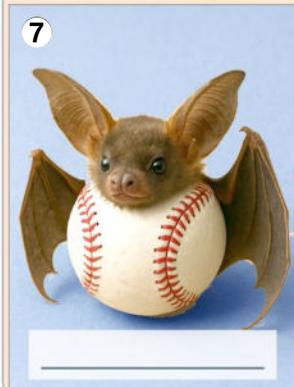
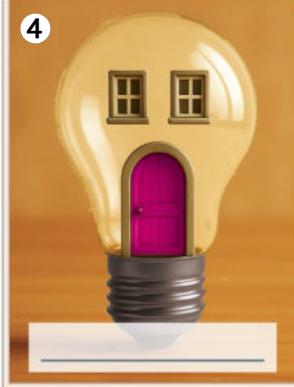




Puzzles

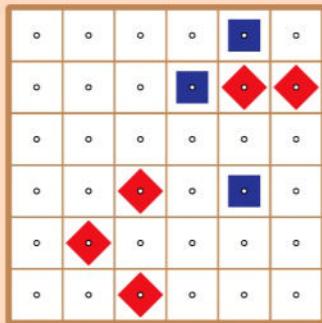
Photo pairs

Each of these pictures combines two ideas visually. What common word or phrase does each pair together sound like? Hint: #1 is a popular summer cookout food.



Turn and go

Draw one continuous path that goes through every box and makes a closed loop with no beginning or end. You must pass straight through any blue box and must make a turn (like an L) in any red diamond. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



Insiders

For each word here, the given letters spell a word that is a synonym of the answer. For example, the letters M E appear in MYSELF. Fill in the blanks to complete each synonym.

G	I		A	I	N	T		
M	A	R				T		
	S	T		U	N			
	V	A	C		A	T	E	
C		O	C	O		A		
			U	R		G	E	

OVERLAPS

For each word pair, answer each of the two clues by completing the word in the boxes below or above it. When you're done, find the hidden word that has been formed across the spot where each pair of words is joined. The four hidden words will all have something in common.

1 Place that lava may erupt from

Direction of sunrise

2 Elephant in a series of children's books

Birds that fly in a V

3 Want one item more than another

Sandwich bread

4 Effect on the skin after visiting the beach

Single piece of corn



Big buzz word search

Can you find all these words associated with bees in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ABDOMEN	NECTAR
ANTENNAE	POLLEN BASKET
APIARY	PROBOSCIS
BEEKEEPING	PUPA
BEESWAX	QUEEN
BLACK	ROYAL JELLY
BROOD	STING
BUMBLEBEE	STRIPES
BUSY	SWARM
BUZZ	THORAX
CELL	WAGGLE DANCE
COLONY	WINGS
COMB	WORKER
DRONE	YELLOW
EGGS	
FLOWERS	
HIVE	
HONEY	
HOVER	
INSECT	
LARVA	
LEGS	

H	Z	A	Z	O	B	E	E	K	E	E	P	I	N	G												
S	I	C	S	O	B	O	R	P	F	H			O	N	E											
Y	V	B	E				D	O																		
E	E								O	S																
									P	Y	D	M	I	S	M											
									U	E	A	N	N	E	T	N	A									
									P	N	A	D	S	T	I	N	G	E								
									A	O	S	T	R	I	P	E	S	Y	F							
									H	L	B	Y	O	T	L	H	E	N	N	L	A					
									O	L	I	R	Y	W	I	E	O	N	G	O	V					
									S	V	E	C	N	A	D	E	L	G	G	A	W	R	B			
									M	E	N	E	P	L	A	O	T	L	S	I	E	A	D			
									R	B	I	N	J	C	K	C	A	L	B	R	L					
									G	R	A	T	C	E	N		T	C	E	S	N	I				
									B	R	S	W	O	L	V		S	E	R	C	T	E				
									Y	E	K	Z	S	L	N		S	G	N	I	W					
									T	E	Y	Z	Y	H	B	O	Y	E	G	U	R					
									S	T	S	B	U	M	B	L	E	B	E	E	A					
									N	U	W	O	B	D	U	L	T	K	I							
									B	C	A	M	Q	E	L	R	S	A								
									M	I	N	X	A	R	O	H	T									
									U	T	E	W	W													

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a water slide appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?



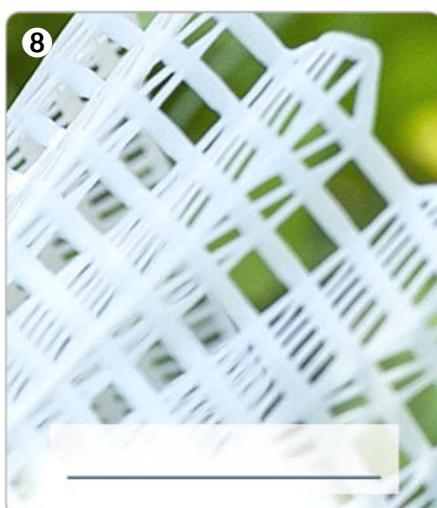
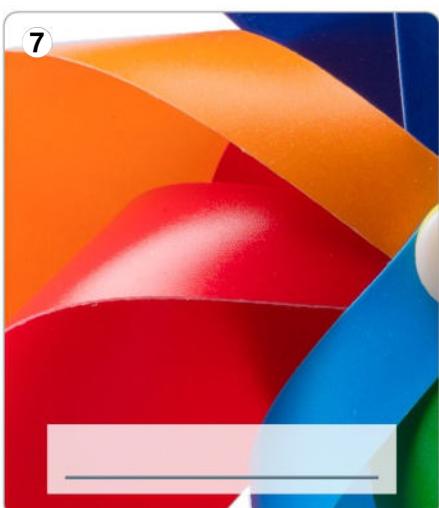
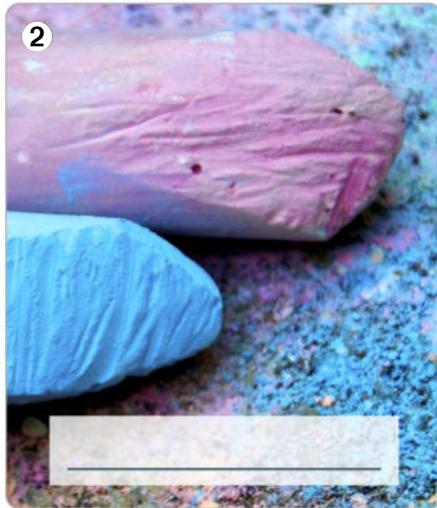
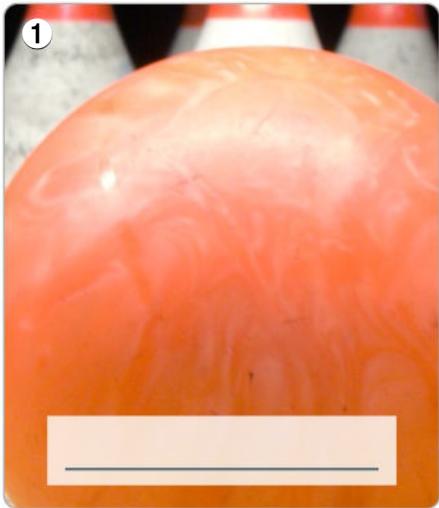


Puzzles



Up close

Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something familiar. Can you recognize each one?



Puzzles

Summer advice word ladder

To change the word HEAT into the word WAVE, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. The words highlighted in orange will form a two-word phrase for what you need to do during a heat wave, and the two clues and answers (in blue) that follow provide tips for how to do it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



HEAT

This is kept by a band's drummer

HEAT

--	--	--	--

Water transportation

--	--	--	--

Fur layer on a dog or cat

--	--	--	--

Kind of fuel inside some barbecue grills

--	--	--	--

Fairly chilly

--	--	--	--

Heat wave tip #1: Take a swim in this

--	--	--	--

Questions for finding out what the public thinks

--	--	--	--

Tetherball equipment

--	--	--	--

Animal that lives underground and has poor vision

--	--	--	--

Sign that bread is past its expiration date

--	--	--	--

Happy, sad, or grumpy, for example

--	--	--	--

The word "lunar" refers to this

--	--	--	--

Like a lawn that has been made short and neat

--	--	--	--

Direction for half of all elevators

--	--	--	--

Heat wave tip #2: Go out during this part of the day

--	--	--	--

Mend something, like socks

--	--	--	--

"I double ___ you!" (challenge to someone)

--	--	--	--

Have concern

--	--	--	--

Hangout for bats

--	--	--	--

WAVE

Find the match

Can you tell which two of these pictures are the same?



ALPHAMAZE

Fill one letter in each blank to create an unbroken alphabetical chain from A to Z. The path may move across, up, down, or diagonally, and will cross itself at times. There is only one way to complete the puzzle. It may help to connect some sections before others. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)





Business and pleasure!



Floating home from the office

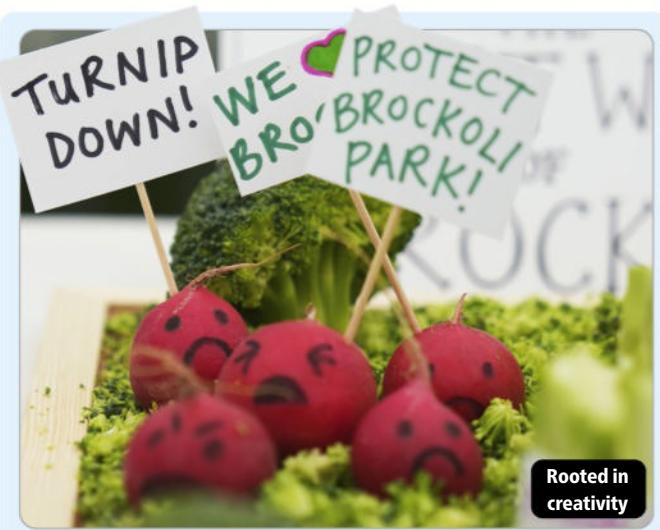
Commuters in Bern, Switzerland, have found an alternative to driving or catching a train home from the office. They strip off their work attire, put on a bathing suit, and hop into the Aare River, which flows through the city. Some use inflatable boats, while others swim home or float in the current, keeping their belongings dry by putting them in waterproof bags called Aare bags. The water is very clean because of Swiss laws on managing waste, and city officials have shared tips on how to stay safe in the river.

Seems sketchy.



Sitting on scribbled furniture

Although this chair, table, and lamp might look like a scribble on a blank sheet of paper, it is in fact a collection of real, usable furniture. The artist Jinil Park, who is based in South Korea, makes tables, chairs, stools, and working lamps using steel wires. He uses metals of various thicknesses and hammers them into shapes that look similar to doodles on a notepad. Despite its delicate appearance, the furniture can support a person's weight. Park describes his artistic approach as "drawing" and a cross between furniture and sculpture.



Rooted in creativity

A "punny" veggie contest

On two days in June, a UK park became a gallery of veggies. As part of the Lambeth County Show, which is like a county fair, a vegetable sculpture contest was held at London's Brockwell Park. Entries included squash re-creations of the animated characters Wallace and Gromit, a "Brockoli" Park protest by a group of radishes (above), and a cauliflower-haired Dolly Parton in "9 to Chive." "Every year, this is what we get so excited about," said fair-goer Maddy Luxon. "It's just so unique." "And the vegetable puns," added Marek Szandrowski. "Definitely."

Rub-a-dub-dub, big bear in a tub



Backyard bear's sweet day out

A long day of relaxation and tasty treats may have been just what the doctor ordered for one lucky bear. Cameras showed the wild black bear poking around in a Florida backyard. It soaked in the hot tub and settled down for a six-hour nap on some cushions before climbing a nearby tree. "He's not looking for any trouble," said one local. Still, wildlife officials put an end to the bear-y lazy Sunday by filling a humane trap with doughnuts. The bear climbed down to enjoy the snack and was safely released into a state park.

That's unbelievable!



Mmm,
onion-y.



Surprisingly savory scoops

A pop-up parlor in the UK is serving up unusual ice cream flavors all summer long. Created by designer Anya Hindmarch, The Ice Cream Project is said to celebrate some of the fashionista's favorite food brands. Along with sweet flavors such as honey and custard, the shop offers scoops that taste like olive oil, gravy, and pickled onions. Adventurous treat-seekers can book a blind tasting of all 15 flavors, guessing which is which and ranking their favorites on a score card. The company insists that customers are in for an "unexpectedly delicious" treat.

That's
pretty coo!



A pageant for pigeon people

At New York City's Pigeon Fest on June 14, hundreds of people celebrated the commonly seen but misunderstood birds. Along with art workshops, panel discussions, and games, brave souls could enter the Pigeon Impersonation Pageant to coo, squawk, and waddle their way to first prize. Wearing handmade costume, Miriam Abrahams won the title of "Top Pigeon of New York City." An organizer told *The New York Times* the event offered people a rare moment "to do something that's fun and let their pigeon freak flag fly."

He found the
experience
Ed-ucational.



Zebra flies to worldwide fame

After being adopted by a Tennessee resident, Ed the zebra had been at his new home for one day when he escaped. People of all stripes searched for him as reports came in of zebra sightings on the highway, in a field, and trotting through a neighborhood. Others got to work making memes, imagining Ed eating at Waffle House or visiting Tennessee landmarks. More than a week later, Ed was captured and airlifted by helicopter to safely return home. One online commenter wrote, "Still haven't seen a pig fly, but can officially say I've seen a zebra fly."

Real or
fake?



Is this space
reserved?

Where aliens are welcomed

A small town in Canada is the location of the world's first landing pad for UFOs (unidentified flying objects). The project began in St. Paul as part of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Canada's independence. A 30-foot-wide, 130-ton landing pad was built to emphasize that the town is open to everyone, even those from outer space. Today, St. Paul's "welcome mat" has become a tourist attraction for fascinated visitors from all over the world—and, perhaps, the galaxy. Is this story real, or is it far, far away from the truth?*

*Really in 1967, St. Paul created the Landing Pad so alien spaceships would have

somewhere to touch down in Canada. Residents say that if aliens do arrive, they would be greeted with town favorites like pea soup, garlic sausage, and pierogies.



Your turn

Editor's note

When *The Week Junior* went to press on April 1, an earthquake had struck Myanmar, causing widespread devastation (p7). With a magnitude of 7.7, the quake was the most powerful to strike the Southeast Asian nation in more than 100 years and could also be felt in other countries, including Bangladesh, India, China, and Thailand, where a large building collapsed in the capital city. Because of a civil war that has been fought in Myanmar since 2021, its people had already been experiencing severe poverty and hunger. Millions had been displaced from their homes. So the earthquake made a dire humanitarian situation even worse. I'm grateful that the world has taken notice. Several governments are sending aid to Myanmar, and nonprofit groups are providing medical care, food, water, and other assistance. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by this crisis, and we hope the people of Myanmar get the help they so urgently need.



Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



The Marine Mammal Center

This organization rescues animals in the ocean that are in need of care. It helps them get healthy before returning them to their habitat. The group, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has rescued more than 26,000 marine mammals in the waters near California and Hawaii. More than 1,400 volunteers help the center do its work. Find out more at marinemammalcenter.org.



On the birding trail

“We've been reading *The Week Junior* for three years now, and our favorite issue was Bird Bonanza. We read it on the airplane as we flew to Costa Rica, where we stayed at a research field station right in the jungle. The people at the field station were participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, just like we had read about in the article! We joined in, too, and learned how to identify birds by their colors, size, and calls. In the end, we counted more than 50 bird species. Thanks so much for inspiring us to explore and learn more about our Earth! It's sparked a love of birding in all three of us!”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

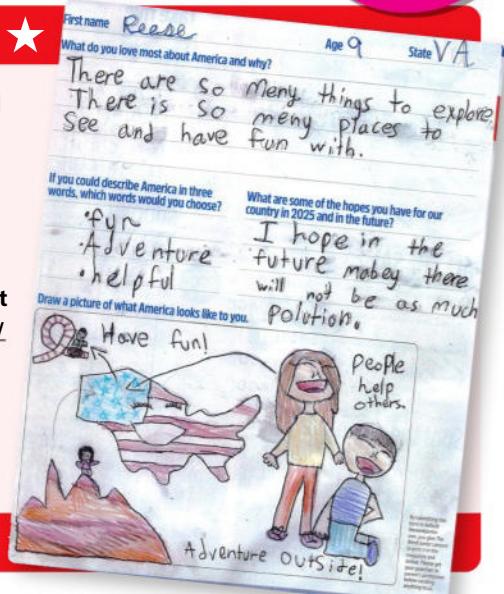


Marietta, 13, Malcolm, 10, and Quincy, 7, California

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What's as big as a hippo but weighs nothing at all?
A hippo's shadow

Your dream for the nation

Reese, a 9-year-old from Virginia, loves that there are so many places to visit and explore in America. Reese hopes for less pollution in the future. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may be forming opinions about your hopes and dreams for America. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form like the one shown at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle and quiz answers



MIND-BENDING CHALLENGES (pages 28-33)

New start crisscross

Riddle answer: NEW BUDS



Double opposites



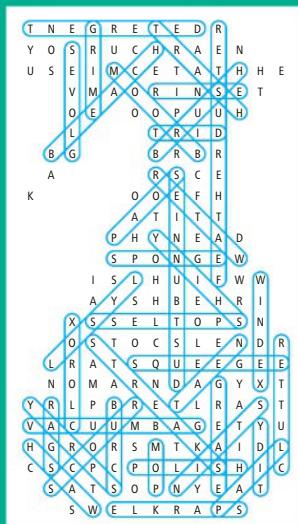
Super stepping stones

Rainfall: cloud, puddle, downpour

Baseball teams: Astros, Pirates, Giants

Spring cleaning word search

Unused letters: You can use the top rack of the dishwasher to clean many plastic toys.



Details, details



Spot the difference



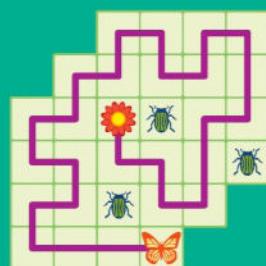
Juggling act

area
gear
rave
earn
care
read

Alpha-pairs

hairdo
anyhow
karate
friend
zigzag
margin
sphinx
cobweb
quirky
verbal
undip
junior
import

Garden path



Magic square

Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,
Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi,
Missouri, Montana

5	16	3	10
2	8	11	13
15	1	14	4
12	9	6	7

Stand back!



1 US Capitol 2 Big Ben 3 Statue of Liberty
4 Mount Rushmore 5 Sphinx and the Great Pyramid at Giza 6 Taj Mahal 7 Eiffel Tower
8 Colosseum in Rome 9 Leaning Tower of Pisa

Flower power word ladder

RICH
RICE
RISE
ROSE
HOSE
HOST
HOOT
SOOT
SHOT
SHOP
STOP
STEP
STEM
SEEM
SEEK
PEEK
DECK
DOCK
ROCK
ROOK
ROOT
FOOT
FOOL
FOIL
SOIL

Find the match

Numbers 1 and 5 are the same.



Up close

1 wood screw 2 yo-yo string 3 toast with butter
4 tennis ball 5 gum in foil wrapper 6 Q-tips
7 bubble wrap 8 scrubber sponge 9 pussy willow

Quiz answers (from page 38)

1 a) Maryland 2 Drawn to the Library 3 a) Boston Banshees 4 False. They are the oldest bone tools ever found. 5 b) 8 6 A New Deal 7 True 8 Pong 9 c) Woolly mammoth
10 BE@RBRICK 11 False. It is the second. 12 Rig shark 13 True 14 b) Andean 15 a) Gummy bears



Quiz

How much of this issue's news can you remember?

1 What was the name of the first comic book that Superman appeared in?

a) Action Comics #1 b) Adventure Comics #1

c) Amazing Comics #1

a b c

2 True or false? Louisiana State University has won eight national titles in men's college baseball.

True False

3 During an experiment, scientists in Switzerland recently turned lead into what other metal?



4 One Crazy Summer: The Graphic Novel is set in what year?

a) 1948 b) 1968 c) 1988

a b c

5 True or false? Skateboarding made its Olympic debut at the 2024 Paris Games.

True False

6 What is the name of the bunny that Utkarsh Ambudkar voices in the show Lulu Is a Rhinoceros?



7 Which basketball player from the Oklahoma City Thunder was named the NBA Finals MVP?

a) Chet Holmgren b) Jalen Williams

c) Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

a b c

8 True or false? Scientists recently found that during playful encounters, horses widen their eyes and open their mouths.

True False



9 True or false? According to a new study, penguin poop could help keep the ice sheet cool in Antarctica.

True False

10 The remains of the ship Endeavour have recently been identified off the coast of which US state?

a) Delaware

b) Maine

c) Rhode Island

a b c

11 For the first time, scientists have reconstructed the face of what species of prehistoric human?

12 In what country did the video game Puyo Puyo originate?

a) Japan

b) South Korea

c) China

a b c

13 What is the name of the seal pup that was released by the Cornish Seal Sanctuary and swam to Ireland?

14 True or false? The first Jurassic Park movie was based on a novel by David Koepp.

True False

15 What vehicle was used to bring Ed the zebra back to his home in Tennessee?

a) Airplane

b) Helicopter

c) Hot-air balloon

a b c

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SPECIAL EFFECT

Several times a year in New York City, the sunset lines up perfectly between buildings at the end of several streets, a phenomenon known as Manhattanhenge.